



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Mike Bost
U.S. House of Representatives
1440 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Bost:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

That's why, last August, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing to establish the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. This modernized approach for connecting the hardest-to-serve areas of our country would be the biggest step yet the Commission has taken to close the digital divide. It would build on the success of the CAF Phase II auction and provide more than \$20 billion over the next decade to support up to gigabit service to millions of unserved Americans through a competitive reverse auction.

At the FCC's January meeting, we will be voting on final rules to establish the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. These rules would target support to areas that lack access to fixed voice and 25/3 Mbps broadband and would implement a two-phase approach. Phase I would target support to wholly unserved census blocks—those areas where our existing data tell us there is no 25/3 Mbps service at all—in order to make sure that the areas most in need will get broadband service quickly. Then, Phase II will fill in the remaining coverage gaps by supporting networks that will serve partially unserved census blocks, along with areas not won in Phase I. Phase II would leverage the Commission's Digital Opportunity Data Collection, the new granular, precise broadband mapping initiative the agency adopted this past August. In short, we're proposing to connect more Americans to faster broadband networks than any other universal service program has done.

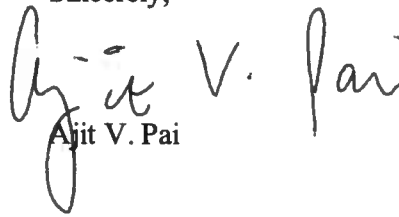
In your letter, you emphasize the importance of funding sustainable networks. I agree. That's why the draft rules that I have presented to my colleagues would make three key departures from the CAF Phase II auction so that the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund supports networks that will stand the test of time. *First*, it would more than double the minimum speeds that bidders must commit to provide. *Second*, it would modify the weights that apply to bids to favor faster, lower latency networks. *And third*, as soon as the total price of all bids in the auction falls below the auction's budget, support would be awarded to the bidder with the

highest-performing network in each area. In other words, the auction would support the best network possible in each area given the available budget. These changes would have a significant impact in addressing your request that the Commission promote the deployment of sustainable networks through the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund.

I also agree with you that consumers will only get the full benefits of connectivity if the carriers receiving universal service support through the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund deliver the network they commit to provide. That's why under the draft rules the Commission would thoroughly vet the technical and financial capabilities of applicants before allowing them to participate in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction. And once winning bidders start deploying their networks, they would be subject to the same rigorous performance testing procedures that the Commission adopted in October for all carriers receiving support through the Connect America Fund. These requirements would ensure that carriers remain accountable to consumers, taxpayers, and the Commission.

Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Dusty Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
1508 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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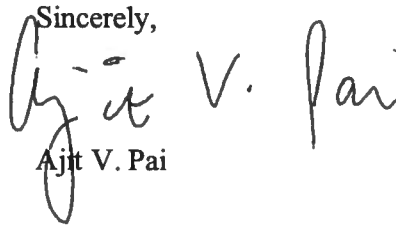
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Ajit V. Pai



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OFFICE OF
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January 21, 2020

The Honorable James R. Comer
U.S. House of Representatives
1037 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Comer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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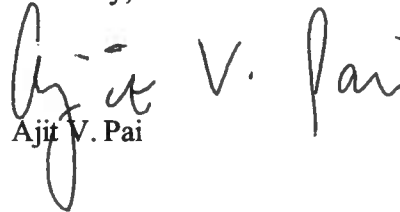
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Ajit V. Pai



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OFFICE OF
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January 21, 2020

The Honorable Ken Buck
U.S. House of Representatives
1130 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Buck:

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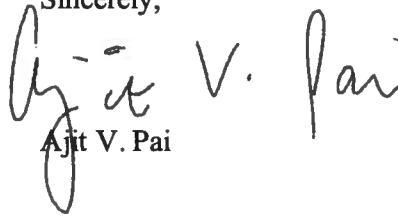
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Denver Riggleman
U.S. House of Representatives
1022 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Riggleman:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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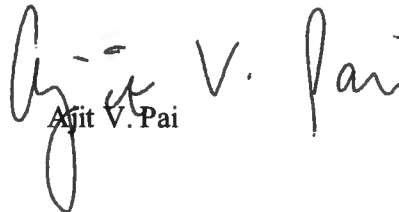
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Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Carol Miller
U.S. House of Representatives
1605 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Miller:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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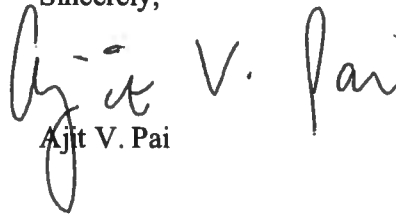
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Michael Guest
U.S. House of Representatives
230 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Guest:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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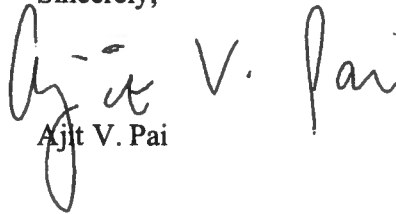
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Ajit V. Pai



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OFFICE OF
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January 21, 2020

The Honorable Kelly Armstrong
U.S. House of Representatives
1004 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Armstrong:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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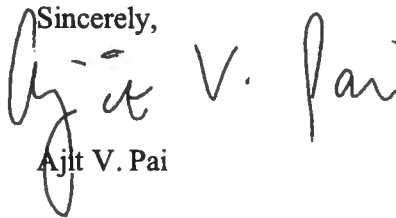
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January 21, 2020

The Honorable Ralph Abraham
U.S. House of Representatives
417 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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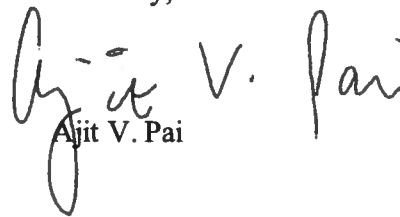
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Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Roger Williams
U.S. House of Representatives
1323 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Williams:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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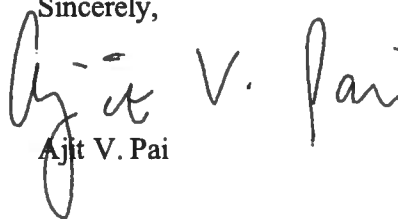
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson
U.S. House of Representatives
2445 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Wilson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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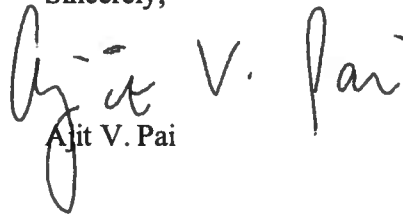
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Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable French Hill
U.S. House of Representatives
1533 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Hill:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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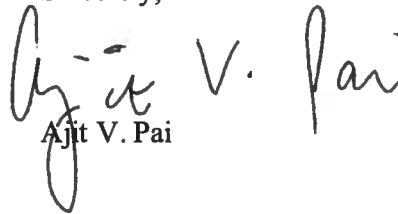
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable John Ratcliffe
U.S. House of Representatives
325 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Ratcliffe:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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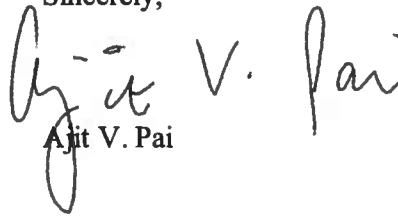
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Scott Tipton
U.S. House of Representatives
218 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Tipton:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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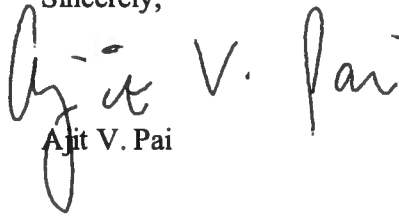
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Steve Womack
U.S. House of Representatives
2412 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Womack:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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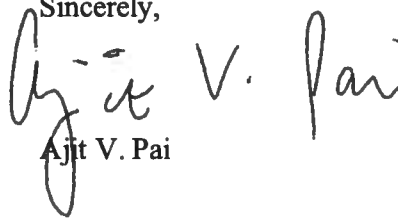
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Steve Watkins
U.S. House of Representatives
1205 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Watkins:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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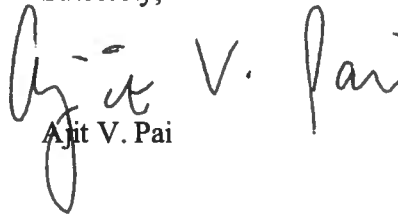
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable David Kustoff
U.S. House of Representatives
508 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kustoff:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

That's why, last August, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing to establish the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. This modernized approach for connecting the hardest-to-serve areas of our country would be the biggest step yet the Commission has taken to close the digital divide. It would build on the success of the CAF Phase II auction and provide more than \$20 billion over the next decade to support up to gigabit service to millions of unserved Americans through a competitive reverse auction.

At the FCC's January meeting, we will be voting on final rules to establish the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. These rules would target support to areas that lack access to fixed voice and 25/3 Mbps broadband and would implement a two-phase approach. Phase I would target support to wholly unserved census blocks—those areas where our existing data tell us there is no 25/3 Mbps service at all—in order to make sure that the areas most in need will get broadband service quickly. Then, Phase II will fill in the remaining coverage gaps by supporting networks that will serve partially unserved census blocks, along with areas not won in Phase I. Phase II would leverage the Commission's Digital Opportunity Data Collection, the new granular, precise broadband mapping initiative the agency adopted this past August. In short, we're proposing to connect more Americans to faster broadband networks than any other universal service program has done.

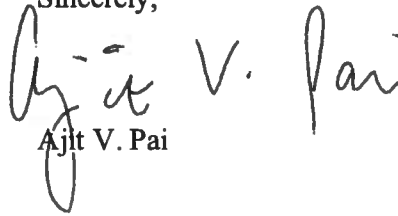
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Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Alex X. Mooney
U.S. House of Representatives
1232 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Mooney:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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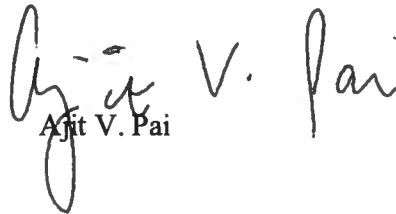
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Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Greg Pence
U.S. House of Representatives
222 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pence:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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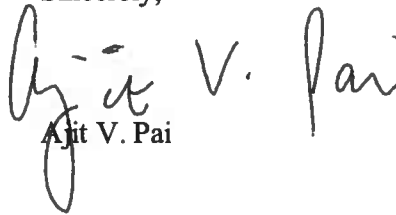
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Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Ron Kind
U.S. House of Representatives
1502 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kind:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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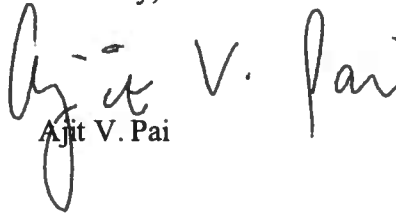
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Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

January 21, 2020

The Honorable David B. McKinley
U.S. House of Representatives
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman McKinley:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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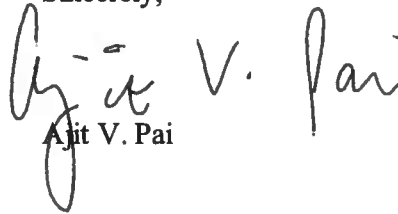
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Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Cheri Bustos
U.S. House of Representatives
1009 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bustos:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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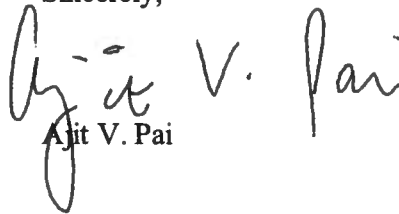
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Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Morgan Griffith
U.S. House of Representatives
2202 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Griffith:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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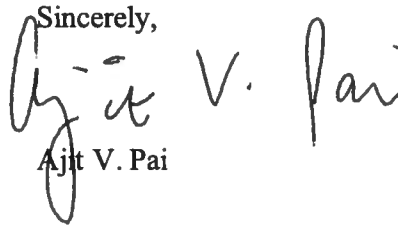
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Jared Golden
U.S. House of Representatives
1223 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Golden:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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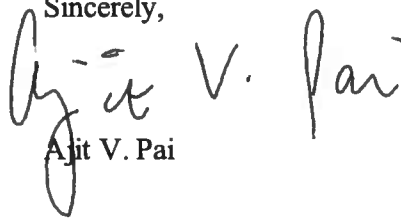
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Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Bill Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
1710 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

That's why, last August, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing to establish the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. This modernized approach for connecting the hardest-to-serve areas of our country would be the biggest step yet the Commission has taken to close the digital divide. It would build on the success of the CAF Phase II auction and provide more than \$20 billion over the next decade to support up to gigabit service to millions of unserved Americans through a competitive reverse auction.

At the FCC's January meeting, we will be voting on final rules to establish the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. These rules would target support to areas that lack access to fixed voice and 25/3 Mbps broadband and would implement a two-phase approach. Phase I would target support to wholly unserved census blocks—those areas where our existing data tell us there is no 25/3 Mbps service at all—in order to make sure that the areas most in need will get broadband service quickly. Then, Phase II will fill in the remaining coverage gaps by supporting networks that will serve partially unserved census blocks, along with areas not won in Phase I. Phase II would leverage the Commission's Digital Opportunity Data Collection, the new granular, precise broadband mapping initiative the agency adopted this past August. In short, we're proposing to connect more Americans to faster broadband networks than any other universal service program has done.

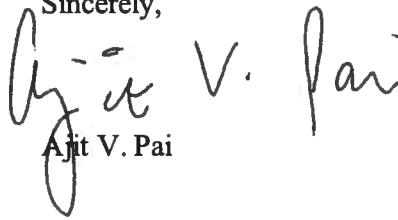
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Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Ro Khanna
U.S. House of Representatives
221 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Khanna:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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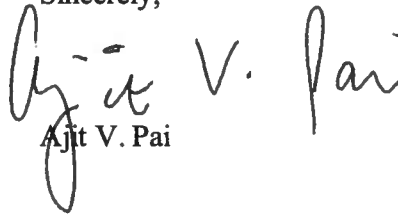
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Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Andy Barr
U.S. House of Representatives
2430 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Barr:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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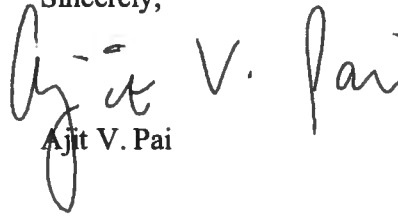
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Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Rodney Davis
U.S. House of Representatives
1740 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Davis:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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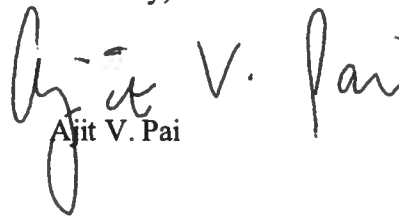
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Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Austin Scott
U.S. House of Representatives
2417 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Scott:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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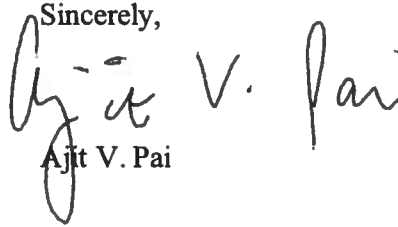
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Adam Kinzinger
U.S. House of Representatives
2245 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kinzinger:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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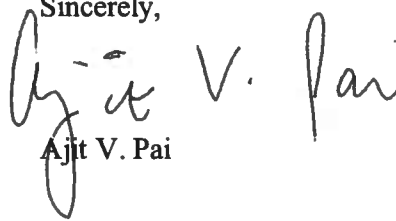
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Mark Pocan
U.S. House of Representatives
1421 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pocan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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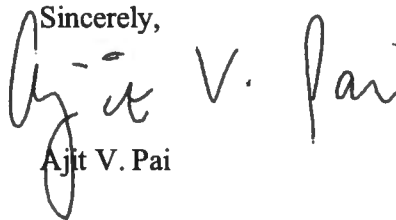
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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Tom O'Halleran
U.S. House of Representatives
126 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman O'Halleran:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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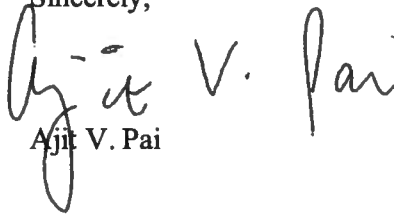
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Rob Wittman
U.S. House of Representatives
2055 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Wittman:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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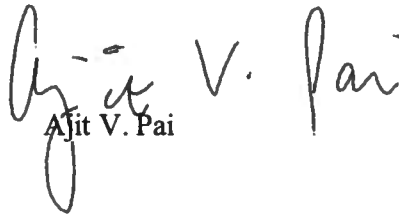
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Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable John Shimkus
U.S. House of Representatives
2217 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Shimkus:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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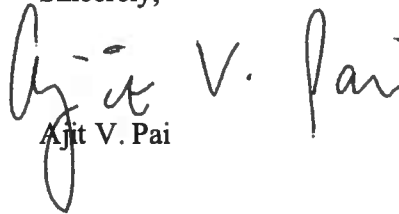
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Roger Marshall
U.S. House of Representatives
312 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Marshall:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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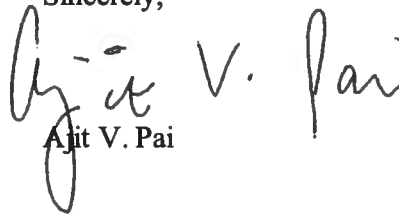
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Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Rick Crawford
U.S. House of Representatives
2422 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Crawford:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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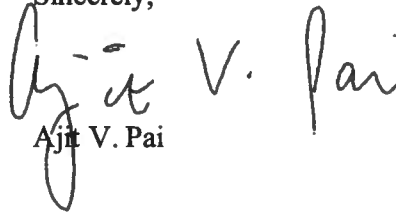
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Frank D. Lucas
U.S. House of Representatives
2405 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lucas:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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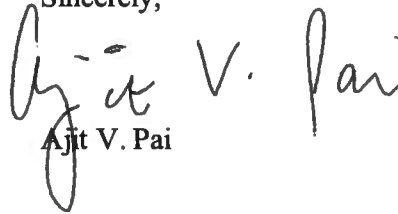
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Dave Loebsack
U.S. House of Representatives
1211 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Loebsack:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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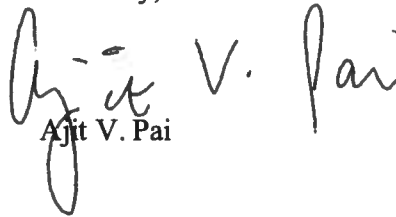
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Bob Latta
U.S. House of Representatives
2448 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Latta:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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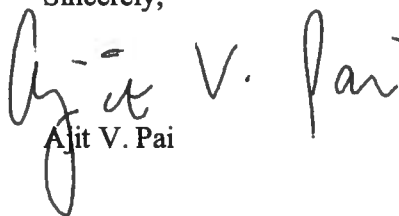
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Harold Rogers
U.S. House of Representatives
2406 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rogers:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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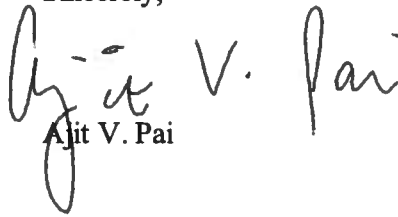
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Jared Huffman
U.S. House of Representatives
1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Huffman:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

That's why, last August, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing to establish the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. This modernized approach for connecting the hardest-to-serve areas of our country would be the biggest step yet the Commission has taken to close the digital divide. It would build on the success of the CAF Phase II auction and provide more than \$20 billion over the next decade to support up to gigabit service to millions of unserved Americans through a competitive reverse auction.

At the FCC's January meeting, we will be voting on final rules to establish the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. These rules would target support to areas that lack access to fixed voice and 25/3 Mbps broadband and would implement a two-phase approach. Phase I would target support to wholly unserved census blocks—those areas where our existing data tell us there is no 25/3 Mbps service at all—in order to make sure that the areas most in need will get broadband service quickly. Then, Phase II will fill in the remaining coverage gaps by supporting networks that will serve partially unserved census blocks, along with areas not won in Phase I. Phase II would leverage the Commission's Digital Opportunity Data Collection, the new granular, precise broadband mapping initiative the agency adopted this past August. In short, we're proposing to connect more Americans to faster broadband networks than any other universal service program has done.

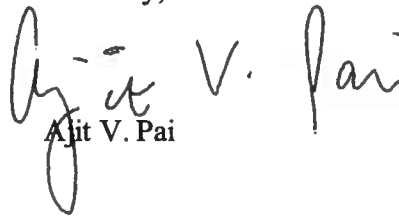
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I also agree with you that consumers will only get the full benefits of connectivity if the carriers receiving universal service support through the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund deliver the network they commit to provide. That's why under the draft rules the Commission would thoroughly vet the technical and financial capabilities of applicants before allowing them to participate in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction. And once winning bidders start deploying their networks, they would be subject to the same rigorous performance testing procedures that the Commission adopted in October for all carriers receiving support through the Connect America Fund. These requirements would ensure that carriers remain accountable to consumers, taxpayers, and the Commission.

Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Debra Haaland
U.S. House of Representatives
1237 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Haaland:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

That's why, last August, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing to establish the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. This modernized approach for connecting the hardest-to-serve areas of our country would be the biggest step yet the Commission has taken to close the digital divide. It would build on the success of the CAF Phase II auction and provide more than \$20 billion over the next decade to support up to gigabit service to millions of unserved Americans through a competitive reverse auction.

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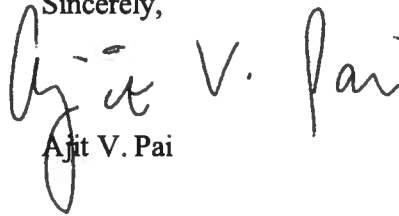
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Tom Emmer
U.S. House of Representatives
315 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Emmer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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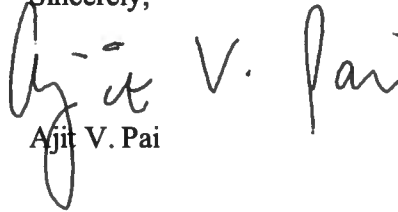
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Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Will Hurd
U.S. House of Representatives
317 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Hurd:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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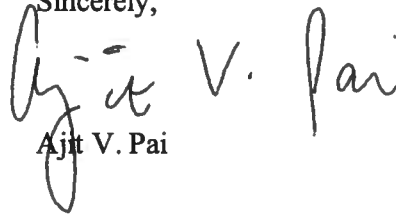
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Xochitl Torres Small
U.S. House of Representatives
2444 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Torres Small:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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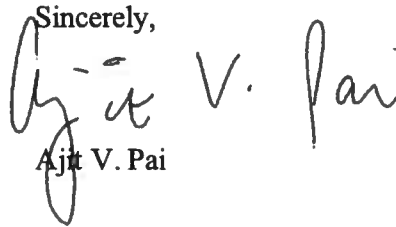
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Doug Collins
U.S. House of Representatives
1504 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Collins:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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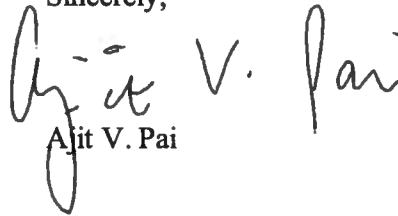
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Cindy Axne
U.S. House of Representatives
330 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Axne:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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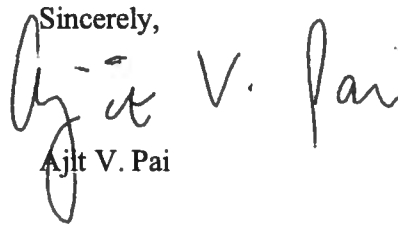
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Michael Conaway
U.S. House of Representatives
2430 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Conaway:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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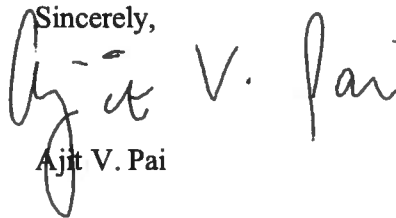
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson
U.S. House of Representatives
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Peterson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

That's why, last August, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing to establish the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. This modernized approach for connecting the hardest-to-serve areas of our country would be the biggest step yet the Commission has taken to close the digital divide. It would build on the success of the CAF Phase II auction and provide more than \$20 billion over the next decade to support up to gigabit service to millions of unserved Americans through a competitive reverse auction.

At the FCC's January meeting, we will be voting on final rules to establish the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. These rules would target support to areas that lack access to fixed voice and 25/3 Mbps broadband and would implement a two-phase approach. Phase I would target support to wholly unserved census blocks—those areas where our existing data tell us there is no 25/3 Mbps service at all—in order to make sure that the areas most in need will get broadband service quickly. Then, Phase II will fill in the remaining coverage gaps by supporting networks that will serve partially unserved census blocks, along with areas not won in Phase I. Phase II would leverage the Commission's Digital Opportunity Data Collection, the new granular, precise broadband mapping initiative the agency adopted this past August. In short, we're proposing to connect more Americans to faster broadband networks than any other universal service program has done.

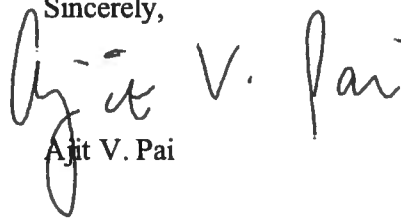
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Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Peter Welch
U.S. House of Representatives
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Welch:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

That's why, last August, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing to establish the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. This modernized approach for connecting the hardest-to-serve areas of our country would be the biggest step yet the Commission has taken to close the digital divide. It would build on the success of the CAF Phase II auction and provide more than \$20 billion over the next decade to support up to gigabit service to millions of unserved Americans through a competitive reverse auction.

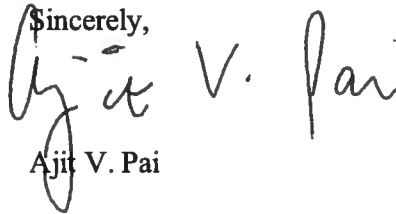
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Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Tim Walberg
U.S. House of Representatives
2266 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Walberg:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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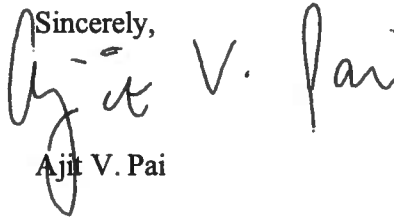
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Bill Flores
U.S. House of Representatives
2440 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Flores:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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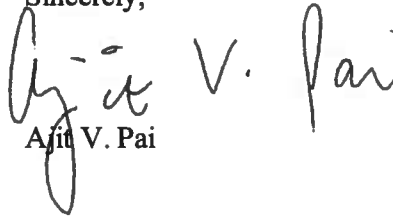
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Jim McGovern
U.S. House of Representatives
408 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman McGovern:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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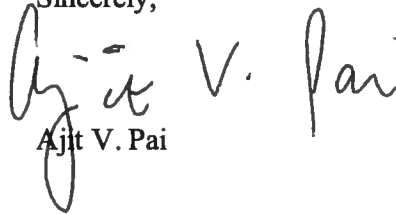
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Greg Gianforte
U.S. House of Representatives
1222 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gianforte:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. And I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is imperative that the Universal Service Fund support sustainable, future-proofed networks that will support tomorrow's broadband applications, as well as today's.

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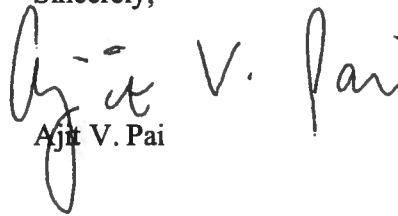
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Ajit V. Pai